

For further information, please contact David Brooks (202) 224-9863 or Jake McCook (202) 224-9313.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on January 26, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on January 26, 2012, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 26, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Compliance with Tax Limits on Mutual Fund Commodity Speculation."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 26, 2012, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following staff of the Finance Committee be granted floor privileges for the duration of the debate on the debt limit: Claire Green, Omar DeLeon, Elizabeth Samson, Amanda Summers, Johannes Echeverri, Whitney Lott, Samson Chen, Harun Dogo, David Sklar, and Amanda Bartmann.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff, William Mowitt, a fellow in my office, during the pendency of the 112th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2012

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to H.R. 3800, which has been received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3800) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, that the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3800) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ULTRALIGHT AIRCRAFT SMUGGLING PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3801.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3801) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have worked to expedite the Senate's passage of Congresswoman Giffords' legislation. This action today shows what we can do when we work together. The Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act, H.R. 3801, is intended to help ensure that smugglers who use ultralight aircraft along the United States border are held accountable for their actions. Its passage today is an appropriate tribute to the courage and outstanding work of Congresswoman Giffords.

Congresswoman Giffords has long been committed to securing the border against drug smugglers. This legislation is intended to keep Americans who live and work along the border safe.

I was part of the tribute to Congresswoman Giffords at the joint session of Congress to hear the President's State of the Union address earlier this week. I was saddened to learn of Gabrielle Giffords' decision to resign from Congress. I know that her commitment to the citizens of Arizona is unwavering. I look forward to working with her in the future, and wish her a continued speedy recovery. She is an inspiration to all.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3801) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding this is legislation that has been pushed by Gabrielle Giffords who resigned from the House yesterday.

What wonderful statements made by Members of the House yesterday signifying the way the whole country feels about the courage of this gallant woman. We all wish her the very best in her future with her heroic husband standing by her side, an astronaut. I am sure they will fare better than we can imagine.

ALLOWING A STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONSTRUCT LEVEES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2039, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2039) to allow a State or local government to construct levees on certain properties otherwise designated as open space and lands.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Boxer substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1469) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. LEVEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(2) the term "covered hazard mitigation land" means land—

(A) acquired and deed restricted under section 404(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(b)) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) that is located—

(i) in North Dakota; and

(ii) in a community that—

(I) is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program on the date on which a State, local, or tribal government submits an application requesting to construct a permanent flood risk reduction levee under subsection (b); and

(II) certifies to the Administrator and the Chief of Engineers that the community will